



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

S. 610 - NASA Workforce Flexibility Act of 2003 (*Sponsored by Sen. Voinovich / Science Committee*) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides NASA with greater personnel management flexibility including: authorizing NASA to pay recruitment bonuses if it determines that a bonus is necessary to fill a position; authorizing retention bonuses to uniquely qualified employees who fulfill a special need; and adjusting the pay of existing employees based on the qualifications of the employee and the needs of the agency. The bill also creates a science and technology scholarship program for college and university students; a distinguished scholar program; and an exchange program that would allow NASA employees to work in the private sector and private sector employees to work for NASA.

The Rules Committee has recommended an open rule. Germane amendments will be considered under the five-minute rule.

S. 1920 - To extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted (*Sen. Grassley / Judiciary Committee*) (Subject to a Rule). This bill would extend bankruptcy protection for farmers for six months (from January 1 to June 30, 2004). The most recent extension expired at the end of 2003.

The Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule that provides one hour of general debate; makes in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of H.R. 975 as passed by the House; waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute; and provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. The Rule provides that if the Senate bill, as amended, is passed, then it shall be in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 1920 and request a conference thereon.

The Rule substitutes into S. 1920 the text of the much-larger bankruptcy reform bill (H. R. 975) that the House passed in March 19, 2003, but that the Senate has not yet considered. H.R. 975 would make it harder for individuals with average or higher incomes to wipe out their debts after liquidating most of their assets by filing bankruptcy under Chapter 7. Debtors whose monthly income meets a set means-test monetary threshold would need to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 13, which requires repayment of most debts. H.R. 975 does not include the language that would prohibit abortion protestors from using bankruptcy laws to shield them from fines. In addition, this substitute would permanently extend the farm bankruptcy law. H.R. 975 was adopted by the House on a 315- 113 vote.



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The Rule also makes in order two amendments:

- **Sensenbrenner Amendment (Manager's Amendment) (10 minutes).** The amendment makes technical changes to H.R. 975 as passed by the House, which consist of the following: (1) revising the year of the short title (and subsequent references thereto) from 2003 to 2004 and a Code of Federal Regulations reference from 2002 to 2003; (2) amending section 1001 to make the reenactment of Chapter 12 retroactive to the date on which Chapter 12 was last in effect; (3) renumbering titles XIV and XV as titles XV and XIV, respectively, to clarify the measure's overall effective date; (4) correcting an erroneous drafting instruction in section 1201; and (5) adding a new provision (section 1502) that corrects statutory cross-references in the Bankruptcy Code and the Securities Investment Protection Act with respect to a provision of the Bankruptcy Code amended by H.R. 975.
- **Baldwin Amendment in the nature of a substitute (60 minutes).** The amendment makes chapter 12 of title 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, dealing with "family farmer" reorganization, permanent and expands eligibility requirements.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: No votes are expected for the rest of the week.

****Conference Reports may be brought up at any time.***

****Motions to go to Conference should they become available.***

****Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees.***

Daily Quote...

"President Bush and Republican Congressional leaders, who have backed both huge tax cuts and huge spending increases with little regard for the consequences, will be tempted to disregard the agency's report, as they have brushed off similar credible warnings. That is one reason Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, must insert himself into the debate. The Fed chairman is said to be extremely worried about Mr. Bush's deficits, and his ostensible independence is no excuse for remaining silent about one of the biggest looming threats to the American economy."

- *The New York Times* in an editorial today